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REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Eastmond. Claims 4, 12 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eastmond in view of Rutledge. Claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 32, 39 and 47 are currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The presently claims invention distinguishes Eastmond because a plurality of copies of the outgoing signal are transmitted. Eastmond describes communication in a multi-path environment. Col. 2, lines 31-33. Multi-path describes the condition where a single transmitted signal is split and reflected to a receiver in multiple paths because of environmental obstacles such as walls. Since the different paths may differ in terms of distance, the different versions of the signal may be skewed in time. **However, the creation of multiple signals due to multi-path splitting is NOT equivalent to transmission of multiple copies by the transmitting device.** Indeed, the distinction between multi-path and multiple transmission is described in the specification at page 13, lines 18-22:

“In fact, some of the received copies may be attenuated due to their bouncing from various objects in the room, such as the bookcase 20 in figure 1, or the walls of the room containing network 10. As shown below, these attenuated, delayed optical signals, which are known in the art as “multipath signals,” are utilized to reconstruct the underlying data signal.”

In other words, each of the multiple transmitted copies may itself be split into multiple copies because of the multipath phenomenon. It should therefore be apparent that claim 1 distinguishes Eastmond by reciting “transmitting a plurality of copies of the outgoing signal.” Similarly, claim 9 recites “the optical transmitter transmitting a plurality of copies of the outgoing signal.” Claims 17 and 47 recite similar distinguishing language. Claim 25 distinguishes Eastmond by reciting

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“receiving a plurality of copies of a single optical signal, the copies created by the remote device.”

Claims 32 and 39 recite similar distinguishing language. Claims 2-3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21-24, 26-31, 33-38, 40-46, and 48-50 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reason as their respective base claims.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 and 21-50 as being anticipated by Eastmond is therefore requested.

Claims 4, 12 and 20 distinguish the combination of Eastmond and Rutledge for the same reason described above. in particular, claims 4, 12 and 20 are dependent claims which are allowable because their base claims recite transmitting multiple copies of the signal. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 12 and 20 based on the combination of Eastmond and Rutledge is therefore requested.

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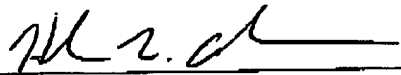
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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nov. 22, 2005
Date


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Docket No. 120-168
Dd: 11/25/2005